Application No.: 10/683,728 Docket No.: 03226/475001; P8956

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph for the abstract now appearing in the

currently filed specification:

-- A method for managing access to multiple applications using a central server. The

method includes receiving a user name and password from an application for a user, generating

identity assertion information using the user name and password, generating an artifact associated

with the identity assertion information, sending the artifact to the application, receiving the artifact

and a request for the identity assertion information from a second application, verifying the validity

of the artifact, and sending the identity assertion information to the second application. The second

application uses the identity assertion information to authorize the user to access the second

application .--

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